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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,214	07/11/2003	Rodney Stuart Howard	23742-011	3133
29315	7590	08/10/2004	EXAMINER	
MINTZ LEVIN COHN FERRIS GLOVSKY AND POPEO PC 12010 SUNSET HILLS ROAD SUITE 900 RESTON, VA 20190			LORENCE, RICHARD M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3681	

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/617,214	HOWARD, RODNEY STUART
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Richard M. Lorence	3681 <i>LL</i>

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/06/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This is the first Office action on the merits of Application No. 10/617,214 filed on July 11, 2003. Claims 1-18 are currently pending.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

The drawings were received on November 21, 2003. These drawings are acceptable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 12-14, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Delfeld '920 which discloses a drive disconnect device for releasably connecting the shafts 12, 14 including the transfer element 10 movable between a

first position (Figure 1) and a second position (Figure 2). Delfeld also shows the actuator 70; the manually actuated lock comprising the pin 82; and the flange 86.

Claims 1-3, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacques et al. '200 which discloses a drive disconnect device 16 for releasably connecting the shafts 22, 18 including the transfer element 20 movable between a first position and a second position (column 4, lines 42-68). Jacques et al. also shows the actuator 30; the lock 44 comprising the pin 54; and the generator 17.

Claims 1-10 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scotti et al. '686 which discloses a drive disconnect device 100 for releasably connecting the shafts 10, 12 including the transfer element 24 movable between a first position (lower half of Figure 1) and a second position (upper half of Figure 1). Scotti et al. also shows the actuator 36; electrically operated control valve 70; high pressure fluid supply 64; and low pressure region 60, Spring 28 abuts the flange on the drive transfer element.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scotti et al. '200 in view of Schwarz '800. Scotti does not show the accumulator. Schwarz provides evidence that it was known at the time the invention was made to provide a fluid actuator of a clutch 10 with an accumulator 34 in order to maintain the ability to operate the actuator in the event of pressure loss as discussed at column 3, line 62 to column 4, line 25. it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide the hydraulic system of Scotti et al. with an accumulator in order to realize the desirable effect suggested by Schwarz.

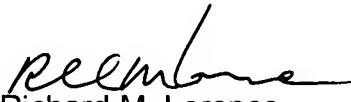
Prior Art Citation

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art cited by applicant in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 6, 2004 has been considered. The examiner further cites Olchawa et al. '620, Phillips '695, Brown '533 and Trommer '654 each of which show devices for disconnecting one shaft from another.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard M. Lorence whose telephone number is (703) 308-3062. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 9:00AM to 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on (703) 308-0830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Richard M. Lorence
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

Lorence/rml